

§ 404.315

20 CFR Ch. III (4–1–96 Edition)

to the spouse's benefits before we reduce for the family maximum.

[51 FR 12605, Apr. 14, 1986]

§ 404.315 Who is entitled to disability benefits.

(a) *General.* You are entitled to disability benefits while disabled before age 65 if—

(1) You have enough social security earnings to be *insured for disability*, as described in § 404.130;

(2) You apply;

(3) You have a disability, as defined in § 404.1505, or you are not disabled, but you had a disability that ended within the 12-month period before the month you applied; and

(4) You have been disabled for 5 full consecutive months. This 5-month waiting period begins with a month in which you were both insured for disability and disabled. Your waiting period can begin no earlier than the 17th month before the month you apply—no matter how long you were disabled before then. No waiting period is required if you were previously entitled to disability benefits or to a period of disability under § 404.320 any time within 5 years of the month you again became disabled.

(b) *Prohibition against reentitlement to disability benefits if drug addiction or alcoholism is a contributing factor material to the determination of disability.* You cannot be entitled to a period of disability payments if drug addiction or alcoholism is a contributing factor material to the determination of disability and your earlier entitlement to disability benefits on the same basis terminated after you received benefits for 36 months during which treatment was available.

[44 FR 34481, June 15, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 21930, May 16, 1983; 51 FR 10616, Mar. 28, 1986; 51 FR 16166, May 1, 1986; 53 FR 43681, Oct. 28, 1988; 57 FR 30119, July 8, 1992; 60 FR 8145, Feb. 10, 1995]

§ 404.316 When entitlement to disability benefits begins and ends.

(a) You are entitled to disability benefits beginning with the first month covered by your application in which you meet all the other requirements for entitlement. If a waiting period is required, your benefits cannot begin

earlier than the first month following that period.

(b) Your entitlement to disability benefits ends with the earliest of these months:

(1) The month before the month of your death;

(2) The month before the month you become 65 years old (at age 65 your disability benefits will be automatically changed to old-age benefits);

(3) The second month after the month in which your disability ends as provided in § 404.1594(b)(1), unless continued subject to paragraph (c); or (4) subject to the provisions of paragraph (d) of this section, the month before your termination month (§ 404.325).

(c)(1) Your benefits, and those of your dependents, may be continued after your impairment is no longer disabling if—

(i) Your disability did not end before December 1980, the effective date of this provision of the law;

(ii) You are participating in an appropriate program of vocational rehabilitation, that is, one that has been approved under a State plan approved under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and which meets the requirements outlined in 34 CFR part 361 for a rehabilitation program;

(iii) You began the program before your disability ended; and

(iv) We have determined that your completion of the program, or your continuation in the program for a specified period of time, will significantly increase the likelihood that you will not have to return to the disability benefit rolls.

Example: While under a disability from a severe back impairment, "A" begins a vocational rehabilitation program under the direction of a State vocational rehabilitation agency with a vocational goal of jewelry repairman. "A" is 50 years old, has a high school education, and worked as a route salesman for a bread company for 6 years before becoming disabled. Before "A" completes his training, his disability status is reviewed and a determination is made that he is able to do light work. Considering his age, education and work experience, "A" is no longer disabled. However, if "A" is able to work as a jewelry repairman, he will be considered able to engage in substantial gainful activity even if he can do only sedentary work. Therefore, it is determined that "A's" completion of the vocational rehabilitation